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LIKE Othello's, the chronic growler's occupation is gone in this country this

THE United States has practically borrowed about \$25,000,000 at 2 per cent. interest. Late in 1860 the agents of the United States found it difficult to hire the same amount at less than 12 per

WHEN the American people come to consider it, they will never consent to be put on a level with China and India by becoming a silver-money country. They believe that the best is not too good for them:

An Ohio paper speaks of a "ringing silver speech" by McKinley. As a matter of course the silver that McKinley talks about will ring. It is that kind, It might as well be described as a "sterling silver speech.

It is impossible not to feel a degree of sympathy for Governor Campbell, who is prevented by sickness from taking part in the Ohio campaign. In such a contest as that now going on in Ohio one likes to see the leaders on both sides at their best.

THE Democratic convention of Pennsylvania devoted itself to "arraigning and condemning" the Republicans. He arraigns and condemns best who does it last, and the Pennsylvania Republicans will perform the operation most effectually with their votes a few weeks from

CANADA has expended \$2,500,000 during the past ten years to secure immigrants, and from 1881 to 1891 850,000 European immigrants have entered that country; and yet, with the native increase and the army of immigrants, the population of the Dominion is only 500,-000 more now than it was in 1881.

SHIP-BUILDER CRAMP comes home from Europe with the declaration that his firm is prepared to duplicate the finest ships built in Europe at the European price. Thus Mr. Cramp makes it evident that the repeal of the navigation laws forbidding the importation of ships, which has so long been demanded,

THE people of the United States will rejoice to learn that the rumors of an incipient revolution in Mexico are false. Under President Diaz Mexico is making rapid progress in all the elements which make a prosperous country. All travelers in Mexico agree that the country never was so orderly and prosperous as now, while the uneasy local leaders who have been accustomed to "pronounce" in the past have generally disappeared

GREAT BRITAIN would be pleased to have the United States protest against the seizure of an American sealer in waters under the sole jurisdiction of Russia, but the administration will probably do no more than ascertain whether or not the seizure was made in Russian waters. If it was, the administration will not give away its case with Great Britain by practically assuming that no nation has special rights in the seal fisheries.

THE Rochester, N. Y., Democrat and Chronicle, in noting the seizure of American sealers in waters over which Russia claims and is accorded jurisdiction, says that "American subjects can avoid trouble with foreign powers by keeping on their own side of the line." The theory is all right, but there is no such thing as an American subject, meaning a citizen of the United States. He is rather of the sovereign order, if he knows himself.

THE account of the horrible hanging at Kansas City, published in the Journal yesterday, showed that the murder which led to the execution was committed nearly four years ago. It was a wife murder, and the murderer was found with the pistol smoking in his hand. His lawyers made the usual defense of insanity. He had three trials, two hearings before the Supreme Court, and was three times sentenced to be hanged. All this baffling of justice was due to the action of lawyers working in the interests of crime. It is this kind of business that breeds lynchings.

AT the date the inquiry was made, last year, 45,233 prisoners were in the peni tentiaries in the United States. Of these 2.288 were under life sentence and sixtyty-two were awaiting execution under sentence of death. It is a curious fact | effectually solved. that, next to the number who are sen-

(6,990), it being more than twice the roads. He is of the opinion that most number sentenced for four years. Of the whole number, outside of life sentences, 1,688 are sentenced for twenty years and more. As a rule, sentences are longer in the Southern and Western States than in the East. The most curious fact in connection with the length of terms in prison is the difference in States. In Rhode Island the average length of the sentence is 2 years and 356 days, while in Mississippi it is 12 years and 116 days. In Maine it is 4 years and 304 days, while in New Hampshire it is 7 years and 80 days. In Indiana the average sentence is 4 years and 32 days, but in Illinois 5 years and 272 days. In regard to nativity and race, the convict with native parents seems to fare worse than the foreignborn, the native getting an average of 5 years and 208 days and the foreignborn 5 years and 193 days, while the average of the colored convict's term is 6 years and 183 days. In Mississippi the length of sentence is due to the severity with which the colored convict is treated, his sentence being more than twice as long as that of the occasional white who is sent to the penitentiary, possibly because his service when sold under

SUNDAY AND THE WORLD'S FAIR.

contract is so valuable to the contractor.

It is right that the views of that ele-

ment of society in favor of closing the

WASHINGTON, D. C .- Riggs House and Ebbitt world's fair on Sundays should have proper and respectful consideration from the board of managers, and such attention will undoubtedly be given the matter. This body has expressed no opinion on the subject, and has not indicated what its action will be, but there is reason to believe that, after giving due weight to the arguments in favor of closing, it will be decided that it is not the part of wisdom to comply with the petition, but that the interests good of the greatest number enhanced by the opening the exhibition on every day in the week. It is hardly necessary to enumerate the reasons in favor of this course. Part of them are the same that have been advanced time and again in support of the opening of art galleries and readingrooms to the public on Sundays, but there are others of not less importance applicable to the special occasion. It is not assumed that visitors will be harmed in any way by what they may see at the fair on Sunday. Any argument of that kind would call for the closing of the doors on week days as well. If the unnumbered thousands of strangers and foreigners who will be in Chicago during that period were inclined, or could be induced to spend the first day of the week in attendance on religious services or in strictly moral and elevating pursuits the closing of the doors of a confessedly harmless place of entertainment might be well, but it is much to be feared that this pleasing prospect is not among the possibilities. Chicago has many dens of iniquity within its borders, and many other places that cannot be classed as schools of morality. There is great probability that strangers shut out from the safe means of enjoyment will be attracted by saloons, theaters and other sinful places that are in full blast in Chicago on Sunday. Should they come to harm, would not the good people who closed the exhibition doors be responsible? It must also be considered by the board that unless the fair is open on Sunday thousands of people in Chicago and vicinity will be practically prohibited from visiting it, the loss of a day's work, in addition to expense of attendance, being an item of importance to working people. The wise course, and the one that will in all likelihood be adopted, is to admit the public to the fair on seven days in the week, with certain restrictions on Sunday, as the closing of the machinery department, prohibition of traffic, etc. In this way the "American Sunday 'idea will suffer no outrage, and, as no one need attend who holds conscientious scruples against doing so, the interests of all will be pro-

THE RAILROAD PROBLEM.

The current number of the Independent contains several articles discussing different phases of the railroad problem, written by persons who have made the subject a matter of special study. The Hon. Augustus Schoonmaker, ex-Commissioner of Interstate Commerce, discusses the "Governmental Regulation of Railways." He does not accept the common theory that competition alone will furnish a solution of the railroad problem. He says:

Competition is by no means the unmixed blessing that many suppose. It often is productive of more evils than benefits. The ordinary competition in trade leads to variety of evils with which the public is familiar, such as short weights and adulterations of the commodities sold. Reference need only to be made to such staple articles as coffee, tea, sugar and flour. Four pounds short weight on a barrel of flour and an admixture of corn-meal wheat floor are not uncomin competition; and while the difference upon a single lour may be small, upon a large quantity t becomes a profit in business. By such results of competition the public alone is defrauded and injured; but by excessive competition between railways both the roads and the public are injured, and the properties often become useless investnents. The public is injured by the instability or fluctuation of rates, and by the inferior service rendered by the carriers. The carriers are injured by the direct loss of revenue that results, and their consequent inability to maintain their properties in proper condition and to meet their

necessary obligations. Mr. Schoonmaker holds, therefore, that competition in transportation is a matter to be regulated and restrained, both in the interest of the public and of the railroads, and that this must be done by the government. Just how, and to what extent this should go, is still a matter of experiment. Judge Cooley is quoted as saying in a recent

and very deliberate utterance; The railroad problem will be dealt with ffectually when the power to fix the rates for railroad transportation is placed upon such a basis that the evils now so prominent, and troublesome, and persistent, which spring from its exercise, shall be cured and the power itself brought under

effectual regulation. This is true, but it throws no light on the question of methods. It only says, in effect, that the railroad problem will be dealt with effectually when it is

of our railroad troubles find their origin, if not their entire existence, in the manner of keeping the accounts. In other words, he thinks the financial department of the railroads is the hot-bed of abuses, and that the remedy lies in State or governmental supervision to compel

uniformity and publicity of accounts. Mr. George H. Lewis, of Iowa, thinks the remedy for railroad abuses lies in national consolidation. Starting out with the assumption that existing evils are mainly due to the struggle for business between competing lines of railroad and to the consequent inequality and fluctuation of rates, he concludes that this condition can best be cured by a consolidation of the railroads by authority of the national government, but not to be controlled by it. His plan is roughly outlined as follows:

Under the clear constitutional authority of Congress let a corporation be created for the consolidation of the railway companies of the United States, this company to issue stock bearing interest not to exceed 3 per cent., the interest to be guaranteed by the United States. This stock is to be exchanged, under careful regulations prescribed by Congress, for the stock of the railroads doing an interstate business at the fair market value of the latter stock, the consolidated company to assume the bonded indebtedness of these roads, and the roads to pay the floating indebtedness. The organization of the company is as follows: A president and six commissioners to be appointed by the President of the United States: one commissioner to be elected by the people from each State in the Union, the stockholders of the company to elect as many commissioners as the several States of the Union-this board electing an executive committee, of which the president of the road shall be chairman and which committee shall have the executive management of the road; all officers and employes shall be appointed for fixed periods of time and appointments divided as nearly as possible between the two leading polit ical parties, no officer of the company to be eligible to any political appointment while an officer, or for two years thereafter; the president of the company to hold office for nine years, and to be absolutely ineligible to reappointment.

Mr. Lewis thinks this plan would conserve the interests of private capital now invested in railroads, protect those of the people and do away entirely with

rate wars. These suggestions from able men and students of the railroad problem seem to show that the drift of public senti ment is toward governmental supervision and regulation of the railroads, but not government ownership. The problem is one of increasing importance, and more and more presses for solution. The interstate-commerce law has accom plished some good, but it does not go to the root of the matter and fails to ac complish the results aimed at.

THE OFFENSE OF ALL LOAFERS.

The professional loafer, the slouching, slovenly and unkempt person loiters about street-corners, the country grocery and the saloon, trusting to the devotion of kindred and to luck for a precarious existence, and the professional tramp are held in contempt by all people. Yet the desire expressed by a large part of mankind, and particularly those who are young and to whom recreation has many attractions, is that they might have the means to enable them to live without manual or mental labor. They seem to regard all effort to earn a living as an unjust infliction, for which existing conditions in human society are responsible. They seem to think that the divine decree, "in the sweat of thy face thou shalt eat bread," is a cruel sentence. They read of the ceaseless round of pleasures to which a few "four hundreds" devote their lives, and they are dissatisfied because none of these things are within their grasp. In fact, great many people would like to avoid labor and effort to obtain a living. They would like to belong to a leisure class. without being common loafers.

If one rejects the theory that the Bi

ble is not the expression of divine wisdom, and that the decree that the eating of bread depends upon the sweat of the face, and that he who does not work shall not eat, the history of the race and the lessons of the ages should satisfy him that individuals, as well as nations, are great and powerful as they have worked out their destiny. Idle races have never achieved prominence or reached the higher planes of civilization. The man who gives himself up to leisure never achieves great success. The penalty of the loafer is his, even if he wear better clothes, and eats better food and with more regularity than the loafer who tramps the country road or holds down dry-goods boxes at the corner store, while he dispenses the science of finance. The difference between the man whose inheritance enables him to be a person of elegant leisure and the loafer who can be found about railroad stations and saloons is not a matter of consequence. The causes are much the same, and the difference is chiefly one for which the tailor, the barber and the valet are responsible. In the even he does not pay his tailor, the difference is in favor of the common loafer, who covers his person with cast-off raiment Absurd parents who have achieved wealth may be chiefly responsible for the idleness of the son who spends his days in a round of frivolity, but he is as much a loafer as the tramp and is as much a violator of the immutable decree of the economy of nature and Providence, which is that toil and endeavor are the duty of every human being, This great truth is not so fully recognized and taught as it should be. When it is there will be less dissatisfaction and discontent, and the professional idler o high or low degree will be regarded as one who defies the laws which sustain human society and is a burden upon the

world's workers. The punishment of all classes of loaf ers is certain and adequate to the of fense. The man who eats the bread of idleness, whether beggar or millionaire, can never know the delights which come to men who fight the battle of life. The men in this world who achieve any measure of success are those who are untiring toilers. To them effort and exertion become a delight and bring a reward which no idler can ever know. In the common loafer the penalty of idleness is the loss of manhood and selfrespect, than which there can be no greater penalty. To the man whom inherited competence makes an idler, the Professor Clark, of Ann Arbor, dis- penalty is even more humiliating, or

en, and the object of the ridicule of all with whom he comes in contact. All his powers are dwarfed because they are not developed and disciplined by that effort which is the law of human devel-

A SOCIETY DOOMED TO FAILURE.

A society is reported to have been re-

cently organized in Philadelphia in

which both men and women are eligible

for membership, and whose rules re-

quire every member to tell frankly,

kindly and truly just what he sees in

every other member that, in his or her

estimation, deserves praise or censure.

It needs neither prophet nor the son of

opment and progress.

a prophet to predict that this society will end its organized life on that day when its members begin to tell frankly and truthfully what they think of each other. In the social intercourse of every-day life friction is avoided and peace preserved only by the exercise of a restraint that prevents the frank expression of opinwhich the Philadelphia organization seeks to encourage. One of the most effective lubricators of the wheels of social life are the words of praise, commendation, and even flattery liberally applied. The application can hardly be too liberal, provided it is deftly done. The individual for whose qualities we profess our admiration cannot be otherwise than pleased; he is secretly conscious that he possesses traits worthy of admiration, and recognition of them not only strengthens that conviction, but gives him respect for discernment and discrimination that welds the bonds of friendship. Such expressions of praise by no means imply deceit; the utterances may be those of honest belief. The point of safety lies in omitting mention of the less praiseworthy qualities, and, of course, each of us is aware that even his best friends, his nearest and dearest, are possessed of some faults and failings. There may be persons so constituted—in Philadelphia it seems that there are-who fancy they would enjoy, or, at least, experience some gain from having their objectionable characteristics set before them in order. That they are mistaken it will take but brief experience to prove. Let any one, before hastening to emulate the Philadelphia example by organizing a club of truth-tellers, test the system by trying it on those of his friends for whose continued affection he has the least regard. Let him tell his next neighbor, for instance, that, although he is intelligent and a good, worthy man, yet his conceit is really insufferable. Then let him note the results. There is a reasonable probability that they will not be such as to encourage the formation of a society with the neighbor as a member. Or let him try the experiment of frank criticism, expressed considerate manner most possible, upon any young of his acquaintance, or upon children not his own. The woman who retains her equanimity after being charged with vanity, idleness, frivolity or extravagance may live in Philadelphia, but not out of it; while the neighbor's boy who, without rude and violent retaliation, will bear telling, even in the gentlest way, that he bids fair to reach the gallows, lives only in the tamest of Sunday-school literature. Only in the bosom of one's own family is enfrankness of such character tire possible, and even there it cannot be called popular. The truth is people do not want to know exactly what

ness" proposed by the new society if they wish to retain their friends. Ar the recent session of the American Bar Association an address was delivered by Mr. Alfred Russell, of Michigan on "Avoidable Causes of Delay and Un certainty in our Courts." Though a lawyer, he admitted that the feeling which prevails, to a considerable extent, that the bar and bench are largely responsible for existing defects in the administration of justice is just and well founded. He attributed the delay of justice partly to the choking up of court calendars with causes which never should have been brought, and which never would have been brought if, in strict fidelity to duty, counsel had exhausted all means of reconciliation between the parties. The speaker also held that the jury system in civil cases was another cause of delay, and the inefficiency of judges was another. Sum ming up, he said:

other people think of them unless such

thoughts are favorable. They may be

privately conscious of having faults, but

have no desire to be told of them. What

they prefer is the praise that agrees

with their own estimate of themselves.

Human beings hunger for commenda-

tion, but the man is yet to be born who

yearns for adverse criticism or who does

women living outside of Philadelphia

will do well to beware of the "frank-

not resent it when given. Men and

Let the lawyer bring no case not justified by the dictates of an enlightened conscience and by professional rules sanctioned by the wisdom of centuries; let the unphilosophical, antiquated, cumbrous and costly jury be abolished in civil cases; let highly-endowed, well-trained and well-paid dges constitute the courts, and we wil then have few just complaints of delay and uncertainty in our courts.

THE ideal Sunday, according to Rev. Charles H. Eaton, who tells about it in the North American Review, is one when the picture galleries, concert halls, libraries and other places of rational and intellectual recreation will be open to the public. He holds that such changes would place Sunday upon a surer and more permanent basis, and, at the same time, promote the moral wellbeing of the people, since, to use his own words, "there are no better preachers than whole-souled artists, inspired singers, musicians and reverent lovers

of science." THE superintendent of police in Newark, N. J., recently issued an order directing the police to keep from the streets and other public places after nightfall all girls under the age of sixteen years, not accompanied by a suitable guardian. He says he was induced to issue the order by the complaints of parents who could not keep their chil-

contempt by full-grown men and wom- is scarcely a city of any size in the | tip. Germany has already taken official country where such an order would not be beneficial.

> THE removal of the German restrictions on American pork has been claimed as a triumph for reciprocity. This is a mistake. It is the result of the action of our government in causing the inspection of meats for export.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

A Little Too Steady. "I cannot imagine why you should discourage im. He seems to be a young man of steady "Yes, that is so, mamma, dear. And bachelor-

hood is one of them. I think."

What Puzzled Mr. Higgins. Hungry Higgins-Of course there ain't no bill for our travelin' over this here railroad, ch! Weary Watkins-What if there ain't! Hungry Higgins-Oh, nothin'. Only I notice

we seem to be footing it, just the same. He Did Not Miss Much. "What did you do with that novel I brought ome last week!" asked young Mr. Fitts. "I sent it to the hospital, along with a lot old magazines," replied his wife. "I did not suppose you would care to read it. " "No: I do not suppose I would, if it was weak

Editor of the Plunkville Bugle-That slug of boller-plate with Peffer's picture is here yet

enough to send to the hospital."

Foreman-Yes. Editor-Just cut the whiskers down to a rea sonable length, and run it in as the Kaiser since he grew a beard. It'll be the scoop of the sea-

Unconsidered Trifles. The Dallas News avers that "the trouble with the crank is that he always turns one way." But the real trouble is that he always turns the other

Should a disappearing fortune be expressed in tapering digita?

The prohibitionist erator who converted the Scriptural sentence, "And the ark of the Lord continued in the house of Obed-Edom, the Gittite, three months," into a text by omitting all before "Obed-Edom," was thereby enabled to show strong Biblical authority for the heavy punishment of imbibers.

SEVERAL months ago the War Department sent a special agent abroad to get samples of the different smokeless powders used by the European powers. He was not very successful. The war departments of France, England and Germany make their smokeless powder in government factories and the process is carefully guarded. Such secrets are not given away. The agent could only purchase samples of the powder from private powder-mills. These private manufacturers assured the agent that their powder was equal to the government powder, but that is doubtful. The samples, however, will be analyzed and tested. The force of smokeless powder is much greater than that of ordinary gunpowder because of the high explosive character of the substances used. It does not look at all like ordinary powder. The French smokeless powder has the appearance of thin sheets of glue, which are cut in strips two inches long and half an inch wide. The charge is bound together with a string and thus put into the gun. The German is cut in cubes one-third of an inch square. It is dark black and under the knife acts like soap. A thin piece cut from it is almost transparent. The value of both of these powders in warfare is beyond dispute.

A St. Louis paper publishes a communication in which the writer complains of the local street-car service as follows:

This growing practice of simply slowing up a a man, unless pretty well along in years or a cripple, should be done away. Look at me! Not in the aged class exactly and apparently in good form. Does the motorman pull up for me? He ust cases her a trifler Does the conducto to a stop for me! Seldom. Just before the crossing he gives her two bells, and with a erk "they are off." Yet there is many a day don't feel like making the jump and scramble to reep my feet. Especially is it a trial when the Some day I shall go down, and when I bring a suit for damages I suppose I shall ave the printed card found in most cases shoved at me. It reads that "Passengers shall not get on or off the cars while they are in motion."

This fits the electric car service in this city "to a dot." These cars never come to a full stop for a man to get on or off unless they are absolutely compelled to. They will stop for a woman, but not for a man. Some day they will have an accident that will cost the company more than a great many full stops.

THE contestants in the celebrated Davis will case in Montana undertook to set aside the will on the grounds that it is a forgery, and made several years after it purports to have been. To establish this claim, four microscopists were summoned as witnesses, who swore positively that the signature to the will was written with "nigresent ink," which was unknown for several years after the date of the will. This would have decided the case had not the defendants demanded that the ink be submitted to a chemical test. When this was done it was infallibly proved that the ink was of the old logwood variety which has been most generally used for forty years. This would go to show that the microscope cannot be relied upon to reveal

the facts in every case THE Medical Record says the habit of inhaling tobacco smoke is frightfully on the increase, caused principally by cigarette smoking. It regards the habit as incurable. "One may stop the use of the pipe or cigar," says the Record, "or the use of tes, or beer, or whisky, but the morphine and tobacco inhalation habit, if well established, are practically incurable. The patient may stop for months, or even years. but he invariably returns to his old love."

In Brooklyn, N. Y., Mary Jenkins sued Joseph Adler for her wages as house-girl, which he refused to pay, on the ground that the plaintiff seemed to be in league with the crockery trade, so many dishes did she break, and, therefore, that when he had replaced the stock which she had broken he would not be even. But the justice decreed that as it was the general custom for servants to smash things, he must pay her the wages due her.

AND now it is announced that water applied through a hypodermic syringe has been found to be a powerful ancesthetic. having been used in Europe with success to prevent pain during surgical operations. Those persons who are said to have a constitutional horror for any internal use of water need not be disturbed by this alleged discovery, as less than a drop can be used at each application.

THE Chicago dealers in "green goods," or those who promise to deliver thousands of counterfeit bank notes for hundreds of dollars, are now sending their dupes small bags of salt instead of saw-dust. Salt is a suggestive article to send these very fresh dupes of the ancient "green goods" fraud. Such victims are only prevented from being knaves because they are fools.

THE investigation of Professor H. A Weber, regarding the use of tin for preserved fruits and vegetables, discloses that in sentenced to five years is the largest | in the financial management as held in | forcement has had a good effect. There | to the action of vegetable acids upon the | thread up her sewing-machine, and even | benefits of protection.

action against the use of tin in canning certain vegetables.

A NEW terror is added to agricultural fairs in Massachusetts by the holding of tariff discussions by more or less able statesmen during their progress. Tariff discussions are necessary things, no doubt, but why not give the farmers a rest once a year and a chance to enjoy their big pumpkins and horse-races?

BELFORD'S MAGAZINE has died a natural death. No magazine can live by free trade

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

The return of James Whitcomb Rile from his first trip abroad may well justify a few words respecting him and his works in that journal through the columns of which he gained his first public recognition as a poet. It goes for the saying that Mr. Riley is always welcome at the capital and in all the borders of his native State. It is here that he has won his literary laurels. From this scene he has thrust out and out like a growing vine, until he has fastened the tendrils of his sympathy and song to the hearts of the whole American people. Within the last five years, more properly within the last three years, Riley has gained what may properly be called a national reputation, and at his present rate of progress his fame approaches internationality. This is saying much. Such language is frequently employed untruly by the partial critic of the favorite bard or story-writer whose work, as yet, has no more than a local significance and popu-

Riley's poetry is no longer-if, indeed, if ever was-of this kind. If human nature is universal, then his songs belong not only to the people of Indiana, or even the people of the United States, but to the Englishspeaking race, and doubtless to the whole world. Of a certainty not all his work has been of equal value and permanence, but the quality of immortality is in it, and it is well for those who stood near to the hour and circumstance of his first ventures for fame to express not only their gratification at the outcome, not only their applause, but also their jubilation over the success

and renown of the Hoosier poet. This is a kind of eulogium which cannot be bought. There are many things which are purchasable-even perfunctory and formal praise, but the tribute of the heart and mind cannot be had for money or on conditions. He who wins it shall have the guerdon. He who wins it not shall have it not, though he own the earth. Riley has won his place by his genius and humanity, by his tenderness and purity of sentiment. by his truth and fidelity to human nature as it is, by his skill in song, and by that unique and lovable personality which has so strongly impressed itself upon the people, and in particular upon those who know Critics are fond of classifying the rising

poet with some other and, as it were, greater bard who has preceded him. Riley has been designated by many as the American Burns. This is well enough, but it is hardly just, for the sake of the compli ment, to detract even to this extent from the absolute originality of our poet. It is a strange paradox in his career that he at once the most imitative and the most original of mortals. The true secret of his fame will be found to consist in this: that his poetic vision has fortunately not been obscured with any fog and cloud form of scholastic attainment. Perhaps if would have rained Riley to be or become a great scholar. To him many kinds of information, especially that which relates to the past, must needs be trash. His mind is one of the most highly sensitive organs of the century, and its utility and beauty of action have depended upon its freedom from restraint and the unobscured use of its native faculties. Among these the senses are most acute. In whatever Riley produces there is the evidence of some living sense. It may be of sight, of hearing, of touch or taste-for all these are marvelously acute Through these channels the poet has gained his knowledge of nature and of man. He follows the evidence of his senses, and is victorious against the whole world of learn ing. By this his art is all the more skill ful and his music the sweeter.

We might here digress to say that all th great achievement of the nineteenth cent ury has been gained by what may be called the direction of the faculties, as against the indirection of books. The bar renness of the past has been largely attributable to the fact that therein men refused to apply their minds to the problem itself, choosing rather to go thereto by the way of some stupid book. If Thomas A Edison had followed the good old rule and become a scientist, we should not now walk out by night in the glow of the electric light. If Riley, as a poet, had undertaken to form his style and to gather his visions out of the accumulated poetic lore heaped up around us, we should not now arise with laughter and tears from the perusal of

Riley has been cordially, even enthusiastically, received in London. With his usual modesty, he has not come home blowing a bassoon about the honor which he has had at the hands of the literary folk of the British metropolis. There he was received and toasted by the Savage Club. most exclusive and severe of the literary societies of the great city. There, as everywhere where he has recited his poems for others, his auditors, sober and saturnine as British writers and critics usually are, were convulsed with emotion and uproarious in applause. It is a long way from the ball ground out at Greenfield to the Savage Cinb of London; but thus far hast thou traveled and risen, O poet of our own kind and kinship! The way, too, has been devious and hard. In some places it has seemed like a desert, in others like a sea, and in some like a grave. But thou hast traveled it: and the gaze of men now follows thee to a possibly higher excursion. Nobody begrudges thee, James Whitcomb Riley, the green wreath of laurel which you have won in the Olympic contest of song. All that we wish to say is that you are welcome home to your old-time haunts and associations, and may take to yourself as comfort and joy, at the end of your journey, the love and admiration of all your friends and JOHN CLARK RIDPATH. fellows.

BREAKFAST-TABLE CHAT.

DONNA AMELIA CARDIA, Portugal's first woman doctor, dedicated her graduating thesis to the Queen, who accepted it.

HALLIDAY, the inventor of the cable treet-car system, states that the sight of six horses vainly endeavoring to draw a car up a steep hill at San Francisco first suggested to him the foundation of his in-JOHN FITZGERALD, the president of the

Irish National League in America, is the richest man in Lincoln, Neb., having fortune of \$1,500,000. He began his career as a laborer with pick and shovel on a Western railroad.

GRACE GREENWOOD writes to the Home Journal from Washington to say that she

her way across Fifth avenue at the hour when the millionaires are out in force. She adds: "I am not blind, neither to my neighbor's sins nor to my own little human frailties. I can still 'read my title clear' to more good fortune than has ever come my

GEORGE F. ROOT, who wrote "The Battle Cry of Freedom," "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp!" and "The Vacant Chair," is living at an advanced age in Chicago. Whatever other reward life may have brought him, he has the pleasant consciousness that his melodies have taken deep root in the people's affec-

THE Unitarian National Conference will be held at the old Town Hall in Saratoga Sept. 21 to 24. Their conferences were held for several years in the Methodist Church at Saratoga, but this year both the Methodists and Preebyterians decline to have their church edifices used for such heretical purposes.

THE late Empress Augusta, of Germany was very rigid in her opposition to being photographed. There is, however, a picture to be seen in the shops of Berlin representing a group of the royal family, with the Empress Augusta seated on the left holding a book up so as to hide from view her imperial features.

THE Rev. Howard MacQueary, whose six months' suspension from his pastoral functions expires on Sept. 18, has begun an argument with Bishop Leonard, of Ohio, looking to the elimination of the other portion of the sentence, which provides that he shall be deposed at the end of the six months unless he recants. The decision is expected on next Tuesday.

JAY COOKE, the famous Philadelphia banker, left that city a few days ago for his first trip over the Northern Pacific railroad. Although the organizer and one of the earliest projectors of this great enterprise, he has never been much further west than St. Paul. He is accompanied by Jay Cooke, jr., and wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Jay Cooke, third, his grandson and grand

Ir you slant your letters in writing you must quit doing it, for the doctors say so: it is unbygienic. In Austria it has been found that the slanting of letters in writing causes curvature of the spine, due to the position maintained at the table or desk. A committee appointed to consider the matter has presented a report, recom-mending that the school-children be taught to make upright letters only.

Among the current stories Spurgeon, this is one of the latest: He was traveling in Scotland at one time, and trying to preserve an incognito. So distinct is the individuality of his face, and so freely question whether he was entirely successful in this latter endeavor. However this may be, he heard a sermon which touched him, and thereupon hunted up the minister to thank him. Whereupon the young preacher frankly confessed that most of it was taken from Spurgeon himself.

MRS. AUGUSTA EVANS WILSON, the Southern novelist, lives in a pretty home on Spring Hill, the shady and picturesque suburb of Mobile. It is many years since she wrote "Beulah," the novel that made her famous, and it is still her favorite among the "children of her brain." As Mrs. Wilson grows older her remarkable erndition, which characterizes all her novels increases, until she has come to be regarded by her neighbors as an unquestioned authority on everything from the concoction of a culinary dainty to the method of building an Etrarian aqueduct.

THE late ex-Senator Pomeroy was known in Kansas as "General" Pomeroy until he became a Senator in 1861. He and S. W. Eldridge were making a tour through that disturbed Territory in 1854, and Pomeroy at that time said to his companion: "If we had a title we would get along a great deal better among these people. I'll tell you what we will do; you introduce me as General' and I will address you and introduce you as 'Colonel'." Eldridge assented, and thereafter they travelled as "General Pomeroy and "Colonel" Eldridge. Pomeroy continued to be called "General" for the next seven years. Eldridge is still "Col."

WALTER BESANT claims to have seen "ghosts" on several occasions in his life. Once, when he was sleeping in a room which was over three hundred years old. and while the door was securely locked three old ladies, in Queen Anne dresses entered and sat down on chairs about the smoldering fire. Then, without waiting for further manifestations, Mr. Besant be came horror-stricken, leaped from the bed and opened the blinds, letting in the early morning light. The visitors, naturally offended by such unseemliness, slowly faded away. Mr. Besant says, however, that he has never received any communication from

A WOMAN in the Washington Post thus solves the woman question: "What man exists who desires to claim that the source from which he sprang is inferior? As long as man is born of woman he is going to respect and reverence her, if for nothing else, for having given such a shining light into the world as himself! It's a case of Hobson's choice! Bound to do it on his own account, don't you know? But he does not want her just like himself. He is ever glad to acknowledge her as an equal, and even superior, but when it comes to similar he rebels and draws the line! And in truth what a monotonous world it will be when we all dress after one style, and act the same at all times and places. I am glad I won't be alive. Are not your Say yes!"

THE DRINKING HABIT.

It Is a Coarse and Wasteful Vice, and Is Dee clining in the United States.

New York World. There was a time when it was accounted a sign of weakness or a poor spirit for a gentleman to go to bed sober. The high livers of these days would hardly regard it as an evidence of progress that in our time no one can reconcile the character of a gentleman with the habit of going to bed

It is not many years since a public speaker in England declared that "a national love for strong drink is a characteristic of the nobler and more energetic populations of the world," and that the appetite for alcoholic stimulants "accompanies publie and private enterprise, constancy of purpose, liberality of thought and antitude for war." If this ebullient philosopher be right, the American man is, according to the testimony of recent observers, hastening to decay. For it is agreed that, whether on his holiday or at his business, he is becoming more temperate.

Self-interest rather more than "growing elf-respect, education and better breeding s at war with the drinking habit in excess For it interferes with a man's prospects in life to be ranked as a drunkard, or even as a regular tippler. Convivial drunkenness has come to be regarded as a nuisance, and drinking at bars in business hours is becoming disreputable. In this as in other matters, fastidiousness and practical sense go hand in hand. All the prohibitory legislation that can be devised will do far less for the diminution of drunkenness than the growing sense that it is a coarse, offensive and wastful vice, to be banished from all society calling itself

decent, refined or sensible. Level-Headed.

One of the most level-headed women in this country is the wife of jailer Wadsworth, the custodian of murderer Almy, or About, who sees to it that no flowers or dizzy females reach the prisoner's cell in the Manchester jail. It is about time that this business of gushing over villains of the Almy stripe was stopped, and there should be more women of Mrs. Wadsworth's intelligence to discourage the silly, idiotic

Accounted For.

notion.

When Mrs. Polk picked out James K. among the angels, and showed him the latest map of the United States, James was amazed. "It is too much-I cannot comprehend it," he said. "But, my dear," said Mrs. Polk, sweetly, "you must remember that the Democratic party has had only one President in thirty years."

Can't Help Themselves.

Pittsburg Dispatch (Ind.) One blessing is that whether they betomatoes, pears and pumpkin a dangerous is not blind, as has been reported in the lieve in it or not all Americans. Democrate tenced to two years (7,684), the number cusses the question of State interference would be if he could realize it. All his dren at home at night, and that its en-